

ADMIRALS ACT AS SIDE BOYS FOR MAYO

Retiring Fleet Commander
Does Not Compel Officers
to Row Him Ashore.

GIVES PRAISE TO MEN

Benson Tells Officers Plan of
Dividing Ships Is Funda-
mentally Wrong.

Rear Admiral Henry T. Mayo was pined over the side of his erstwhile flagship, the U. S. S. Pennsylvania, yesterday afternoon at 5:30, with the eight ranking Rear and Vice-Admirals aboard of the navy tending as side boys, after he had relinquished and Rear Admiral Henry B. Wilson had assumed command of the Atlantic fleet with the rank of a full Admiral.

The occasion marked also the division of the fleet into the Atlantic and the Pacific fleets, the Pennsylvania becoming Admiral Wilson's flagship of the Atlantic fleet yesterday and the New Mexico becoming Vice-Admiral Rodman's flagship today.

Rear Admiral Mayo said good-by to Admiral Wilson and shook hands with Rear Admiral Charles P. Plunkett, Rear Admiral H. M. Smith, Rear Admiral R. E. Coontz, Rear Admiral E. W. Eberle, Rear Admiral Spencer Wood, Rear Admiral James C. Glennon, Vice-Admiral Albert W. C. Smith, Rear Admiral Hugh Rodman, who were the side boys. On his way ashore to become head of the selection board of the navy seventeen ships were fired at five second intervals in salute.

Officers and men stood at attention while Admiral Benson, representing the Secretary of the Navy, opened the ceremony by a short speech to his officers.

Prate Comes From Daniels.
"The Secretary of the Navy," said Admiral Benson, "wishes me to express his appreciation of the Atlantic fleet."

Admiral Benson praised the morale of that part of the fleet which, during the war, had to remain inactive in Chesapeake Bay and other home ports. He called this inactivity the hardest and most tiresome of work, and said that the morale of the men, upheld by a sense of duty, spoke volumes.

He lauded the work of the navy in the war, not for what it did in cooperation with other countries, but for what it did by itself. He spoke of the wonderful work of the destroyers in landing troops safely. Then turning to Admiral Mayo, he thanked him for his work.

"The division of the fleet," went on Admiral Benson, addressing the officers again, "is a fundamental principle. It is necessary, though, to familiarize ourselves with the Pacific coast and the Panama Canal. This is why we are sending Admiral Rodman through the Canal to cruise the Pacific with the Pacific fleet. We want to know all about the Pacific."

Admiral Mayo then said a few words, thanking the Navy Department for its strong support, without which his efforts would have been vain.

He read the order relieving him of his command. As soon as he had finished the first of seventeen shots sounded in his honor. At the seventeenth his flag—the silk flag with four white stars in a blue field, which, so navy men say, his wife made for the occasion—was lowered.

Admiral Wilson's Flag Run Up.
Admiral Wilson stepped forward and read his orders promoting him to the rank of Admiral. When he had finished his flag was run to the masthead, and the guns boomed in salute to him.

For an hour previous to the ceremony Admirals and their aids arrived in their boats, climbed aboard the Pennsylvania, and made their way to the quarterdeck where Admirals Wilson and Mayo were receiving guests under the shade of an awning.

"Good," remarked a gun, "the sight of so much gold braid hurts my eyes." Many-colored pennants and flags hung over the rail. The hatches were decorated with flags. Officers stood by in their white uniforms to greet other officers and their wives and friends. Three naval jazz bands played dance music and the distinguished personnel of the fleet, dressed in the uniform of "A Little Bit of Cane and You."

Below decks, in the ward room, were refreshments and harmless seagoing punch with a guard over them until the Admirals had passed the compliments of the day.

Admiral Wilson's promotion was in recognition of his services as commander of patrol forces overseas in the world war. For his distinguished service on the coast of France he was made a Vice-Admiral. That was a year ago. Yesterday he became a full-fledged Admiral.

He wears the decoration of a Grand Commander of the Legion of Honor for his work while in command of the naval patrol and naval bases in foreign waters. It was he who saw to it that our transports landed safely with their troops and supplies.

Ten years ago, while on shore duty, Admiral Wilson established the present system of recruiting in the navy. He has been president of the board of inspection of new ships.

Vessels Under Admiral Wilson.
As commander of the Atlantic fleet, Admiral Wilson will command 16 battleships, 100 destroyers, 20 submarines and a fleet of mine sweepers, cruisers, colliders and auxiliary vessels.

Admiral Wilson was born in Canton, N. J., in 1861. He was graduated from Annapolis in 1881, and since then has seen much service in different parts of the world. In the battle of Santiago he was aboard the Indiana. From 1901 to 1903 he served in the Asiatic division and in the Philippines insurrection, and was navigator and executive officer of

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Questions Ownership of Paper.
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"The Tribune's policy in 1916 was that we had let the cause for war with Germany go by," was the reply. "Our editorial on the sinking of the Lusitania advised the United States to stay out of the war."

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Suspended by Order of
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ROPE MYSTERY UNSOLVED

Court and Commissioners Are
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ness at Jail.

Four investigations instituted separately at the Nassau county jail at Mineola, where Dr. Wilkins killed himself on Sunday night after having been convicted on the preceding Friday of the murder of his wife at their home at Long Beach, failed wholly yesterday to disclose in what manner Dr. Wilkins obtained the room with which he hanged himself in the washroom of the jail.

The four investigations were begun almost simultaneously, one by Judge David P. Manning of the Supreme Court, who presided at Dr. Wilkins's trial; one by District Attorney Weeks, another by Sheriff Phineas Seaman and a fourth by Commissioners Henry Solomon and Leon Weinstein of the State Prison Commission. Every person who was in the jail in any capacity, either as official, employee or prisoner, at or about the time Dr. Wilkins took his life, was heard of and sworn in for the hearings, without any one of them being able to shed any light on how Dr. Wilkins came by the possession of the rope.

Sheriff Seaman, whose inquiry was the first to be set afoot, announced at the completion of it that he had relieved from duty Keeper Hulse, the responsible head of the jail, and John Mills and William Hendrickson, under keepers, who were on guard when Dr. Wilkins took his life and immediately responsible for his safe keeping. Sheriff Seaman says that if it is developed that any one of the three is chargeable with neglect of duty he will prefer charges against him. They are all on the Civil Service list and can not be deprived of their positions until after an inquiry and until they have been duly heard in their own defense.

The inquiry by Justice Manning lasted for three hours yesterday morning and during it fifteen prisoners, who are inmates of the jail as well as all those who are on duty in any capacity within the jail, were examined carefully. None of them was able to even hazard a guess as to how a rope could have been smuggled in to Dr. Wilkins, and the general opinion expressed by all of them was that Dr. Wilkins must have had the rope secreted in his cell for a considerable time before he used it to kill himself and must have had the idea of suicide in mind many weeks before his trial took place.

Justice Rebukes Sheriff.
Justice Manning conducted his hearing only long enough to satisfy himself that Dr. Wilkins had taken his life after he had passed out of the custody of the Supreme Court. At its conclusion he said:

"I am not responsible in any way for the safe keeping of prisoners in this jail after a jury has rendered its verdict and will not conduct any inquiry any further. But I must say that if I were Sheriff of this county I would consider it my duty to look to the safe guarding of men who were locked up and not permit them to run at large through the jail corridors."

The result of District Attorney Weeks's investigation was not given out. He will make known what he has learned to Coroner Walter Jones, who will hold an inquest today.

The members of the Prison Commission, however, as the result of an inquiry held yesterday in the Nassau County Court House stated frankly that they regarded conditions in Nassau jail as incalculable and that they would recommend in a report to Gov. Smith

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Two French Medals.

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